

MRS. F. J. HEWITT: ENGLISH TEACHER 1961 - 1968



Frances Joyce Hewitt was born in 1912 in Chewton, Victoria, to Ethel Louise Lloyd and William Dixon. Frances had two sisters, Constance Gwenllian (1906) and Marion Lloyd (1914), and two brothers Harry Lloyd (1904) and Allan William Lloyd (1908).

Ethel Louise Lloyd's family were from Bobinawarra, Moyhu, Indi, Victoria, and their origins go back to 1739 in Chirbury, Shropshire, England. Charles Westall Lloyd emigrated to Australia in the 1860s and married Ann Elizabeth Kirkham in 1869 - they had six sons and one daughter, Ethel Louise Lloyd, who became Frances Hewitt's mother.

William Dixon's parents were Joseph Dixon and Mary Jane Kinsman. The Dixon family heritage is traced back to 1700 in Sunderland, Durham, England (there was a family crest); Joseph Dixon was born in 1833 in Liverpool, Lancashire, England, and emigrated to Victoria in the 1850s and married Mary Jane Kinsman in 1858.

Mary Jane Kinsman was born in 1833 in Redruth, Cornwall, England, and emigrated to Victoria in the 1850s; her paternal ancestry is traced back to 1510 in Marham church, Kilkhampton, Cornwall, England (there was a family crest). Mary married Joseph Dixon and had at least four children: Mary (1861), William (1863), Joseph (1866), and Emily (1870).

The children of William Dixon and Ethel Louise Lloyd include:

- Harry Lloyd was born in 1904 at Beechworth. In the mid-1930s he was the Headmaster of the State school at Sale. He married Norma Rose Graham in 1935 but they divorced in 1939. In 1940 he enlisted with the AMF - he was single, aged 35, worked as a bank officer, and had previously served as corporal with the 30th Battalion. This time he served until late 1945 and was serving some of that time in Queensland. During the 1950s he was living at the family home in Ivanhoe and worked as a teacher.
- Constance Gwenllian was born in 1906 in Brunswick. In the 1930s she was living with her parents in Waterdale Road, Ivanhoe. Constance enlisted in 1939 but her application or service details are not published. In 1955 she married Leonard Ruben Bailey, who was a builder of Ivanhoe, whose first wife had died in 1952. Unfortunately, Leonard died in 1960. Constance died in 1981 at age 75

and was buried at Fawkner Memorial Park.

- Allan William Lloyd was born in 1908 at Williamstown. In 1931 he was living in Alphington and was working as a chemist. In 1937 he had moved to Devenport in Tasmania and was still working as a chemist. He might have died in 1964 in Tasmania and was buried at Hobart.
- Frances Joyce was born in 1912 in Chewton and became a primary school teacher. She married Albert Smythe Hewitt in 1941 and had three children. Frances later became a secondary school teacher and taught at St Albans in the 1960s.
- Marion Lloyd was born in 1914 in Chewton. She married Geoffrey Hindhaugh Entwisle of Lake Boga in 1940 and they settled in Tresco which is near Lake Boga and Swan Hill, where they became orchardists. They had at least one daughter, Susann, born in 1944. In 1969 Geoffrey was appointed by the Victorian Government as an inspector of dried fruits. Marion died in 1984 at age 69 and Geoffrey died in 1997 at age 85.

To reiterate, Frances Joyce Dixon was born in 1912 in Chewton, country Victoria, but the family later moved to Ivanhoe and she seems to have done most of her schooling in Melbourne. She completed her School Leaving Examination in 1927, the Melbourne University Public Examinations in 1928, and was on the University of Melbourne Public examinations Leaving Honours class list for 1929. She was a student from the MacRobertson Girls High School. She is also recorded as passing the Melbourne University exams in 1932. In 1933 she obtained a provisional selection for training at the Melbourne Teachers College.

Frances Joyce Dixon became a primary school teacher, as was her older brother, and in 1935 she was transferred or promoted to the state school at Pimpinio West, which is north of Horsham and south-west of Warracknabeal which is further away. (Pimpinio is an Aboriginal word for 'man squatting'.)

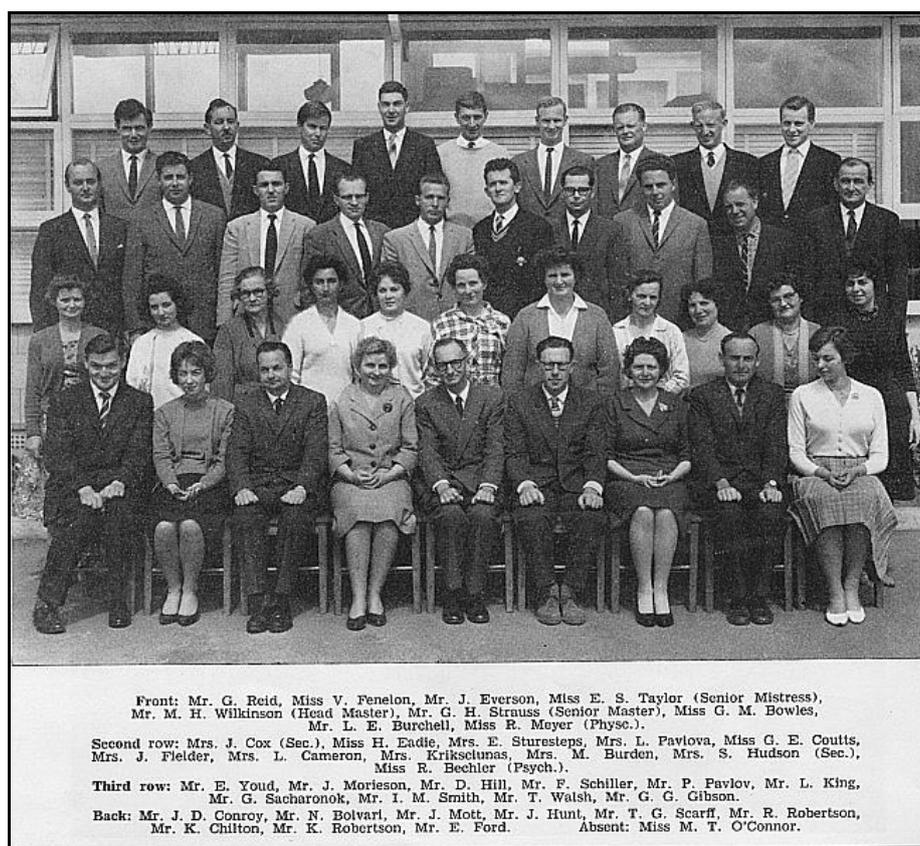
Her work at the school no doubt brought her into social contact with the broader regional community, and possibly that is how she met her future husband, who was a farmer from Warracknabeal. They became engaged in January 1940: "Frances Joyce Dixon, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Dixon, of Waterdale road, Ivanhoe, to Albert Smythe Hewitt, only child of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hewitt, of Warracknabeal." (The Australasian 27 January 1940 p17)

Frances Dixon and Albert Hewitt married in Ivanhoe in October 1941. Albert was the son of Herbert Albert Hewitt and Isabella Wall of Warracknabeal. The Hewitt ancestry goes back to the early 1700s in Welford, Northamptonshire, England; William and Sarah Hewitt emigrated to Victoria in 1851. The Wall ancestry goes back to the 1750s in Norwich, Norfolk, England; William Wall came to Tasmania as a convict in 1835. He married twice and fathered 16 children. Albert Smythe Hewitt was his grandson,

whose parents Herbert and Isabella Hewitt had established themselves as farmers in Warracknabeal in the early 1900s.

Albert Hewitt was born in 1916 and followed the family tradition of farming. He enlisted in 1941 at age 24 and was assessed as being in one of the reserved occupations of agriculture; he was discharged in 1942.

Albert Smythe Hewitt and Frances Joyce Dixon (sometimes known as Joyce) had three children: Michael Lloyd (1943), Quentin Smythe (1946) and Carolyn. Albert's father died in 1945 and Albert continued running the family farm.



Teaching staff 1961, Mrs Hewitt in centre of second row.

Mrs Hewitt started at St Albans High School in 1961 as a teacher of English. Little is reported about her in the available school magazines. She is remembered as being one of the mature teachers on staff who had some health problems, described by some students as being akin to epileptic fits or diabetic blackouts which sometimes occurred in the classroom; some students remember her "cranky" mood changes before an impending episode.

Her resilience to life in general might have been effected by family estrangement - in 1965 after 24 years of marriage, Mrs Hewitt became divorced. It is not known when the separation started. The family history is that Albert Hewitt continued working on the farm at Warracknabeal and that their son Quentin continued in that tradition.

Frances, however, had moved to Melbourne and restarted her teaching career. During the 1960s she was living in suburbs like Malvern and Hawthorn.

But she persevered. In 1967 the school magazine notes that: "Various students under the expert guidance of Mrs. Hewitt held the inaugural meeting of the High School Drama Club". There is a photo of Mrs Hewitt with a senior girls class dated 1968, which might have been her last year at the school, as she is not on the 1969 staff list.



Mrs Hewitt as Form Teacher 1968.

Little is known of Mrs Hewitt's activities in later life. In the early 1970s she was still working as a teacher and living in suburbs like Malvern and Hawthorn. Her former husband died at Warracknabeal in 1974. By 1977 she had retired and moved to Mornington.

Frances Joyce Hewitt nee Dixon died at Mornington in September 1989 at age 77. Sadly, she was never to know that between the 1990s and the 2010s, her 17-year-old granddaughter, Lauren Hewitt, would represent Australia at three Olympic Games, three Commonwealth Games, and six world championships, obtaining two Gold, one Silver and three Bronze medals, as well as clinching twelve Australian titles.

Article written by Joseph Ribarow

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